

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



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Staff provided by the
Department of
Administration

May 16, 2003

TO: Robert A. Schroeder, EQB Chair

FROM: Larry B. Hartman (Tel: 651-296-5089)
EQB Staff

SUBJECT: **Information Book for Pipeline Project Proposed by Public Utilities Commission of New Ulm**

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you that the Public Utilities Commission of New Ulm is proposing to construct a new 4.56 mile natural gas pipeline that does not require an EQB pipeline routing permit because it is smaller than the EQB's jurisdictional limit and that EQB staff has prepared an Information Book about the project in accordance with applicable statutory provisions.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

When a permit is not required from the EQB for a new pipeline, the law provides that the EQB shall prepare an Information Book describing the proposed project (Minn. Statutes, section 116I.03). The EQB can allow the project proposer to prepare the Information Book, provided the board approves the document.

EQB ROLE

In this case the Public Utilities Commission of New Ulm has provided the necessary information to EQB staff who has prepared an Information Book that meets the statutory requirements. When EQB staff prepares the Information Book, board approval is not necessary before the Information Book can be released. EQB staff wanted to advise the chair of the Information Book prepared for this project prior to release of the accompanying Information Book. EQB staff costs are reimbursed by the proposer.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the information book, the Brown County board must also schedule and hold a public information meeting on the proposed project. All affected landowners will receive a copy of the information book and a notice of the public information meeting.

The proposed project will obtain all of the required state and local permits necessary prior to the commencement of construction.

Robert Schroeder, EQB Chair

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If there are any questions, please contact me at your convenience at: Tel: 651-296-5089 or by E-mail:
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